06

apil

association of personal injury lawyers

annual report

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Richard Langton
President



Martin Bare
Vice President



Roger Bolt
Treasurer



Frances Swaine
Secretary



Denise Kitchener
Chief Executive

apil **objectives**

- To promote full and just compensation for all types of personal injury;
- To promote and develop expertise in the practice of personal injury law;
- To promote wider redress for personal injury in the legal system;
- To campaign for improvements in personal injury law;
- To promote safety and alert the public to hazards wherever they arise;
- To provide a communication network for members.

president's report

I look back on a year which ought to have produced the blueprint for dealing with lower value claims. 2007 will hopefully see the Department for Constitutional Affairs consultation paper finally issued and debated. 2006 laid the groundwork, with numerous meetings and widespread agreement on improvements, and whilst change is always uncomfortable, uncertainty is usually worse than the reality. Often one fears greater upheaval than actually transpires. I believe we can genuinely improve the existing Civil Procedure Rules. Many insurers flout the pre-action protocols with impunity. Cases take too long. We argue over small sums. Of course this has the effect of making such litigation unattractive to victims and plays into the hands of negligent defendants. Quicker notification, quicker binding admissions and standardised special damages should drive an efficient but still client-focussed system.

The Compensation Act was a curate's egg and is the first and hopefully last enactment to instruct judges on what the common law says. But it also brought long overdue regulation of claims management companies. The wild underestimation of the number of organisations caught by its remit suggests there has been inadequate appreciation of the potential scale of unethical or worse behaviour of some. I hope the regulator has the resources to properly monitor such widespread activity. Of course the Act put right the adverse effects of the Barker judgment. My faith in the judicial process was tested by the House of Lords' decision in that case. Absent the combination of a government minister who appreciated the injustice and the availability of a statutory vehicle in the right place at the right time, and thousands of mesothelioma sufferers would have had their burden increased. APIL's role in advising on and promoting the reversal of Barker is a highlight for me of this year.

Whilst constructive dialogue has taken place between APIL and many insurance industry leaders, 2006 was not the year when peace was declared in the costs war. Indeed, in the cases of Myatt and Garrett the Court of Appeal did its best to encourage technical challenges by propping up challenges to compliance with the long abolished and unlamented CFA Regulations. We were assured that many insurers had sacked their costs muppets: we found they had simply taken their word processors back in-house or off to solicitors' firms. In the words of Lord Justice Dyson; "plus ca change."



The extensive review of APIL's activities in this report demonstrates the huge range and depth of this organisation's activities and influence. Members are provided with consistently excellent education, information, and advice. The best interests of our clients are constantly kept at the top of the political agenda. We promote avoidance of injury and rehabilitation of the injured. We will enter our seventeenth year stronger and better equipped to deal with an ever more challenging external environment.

Richard Langton
President

secretary's report

My second year as an officer of this association flew by, with executive committee meetings packed with many issues and activities. Our annual report is designed to highlight those key areas and report on the association's finances.

In addition to my officer duties, I have been pleased to give further time and support to APIL's work on the NHS Redress Bill, APIL's responses on consultations on Part 36 offers, legal aid reforms and PI developments in Europe.

At last year's AGM we said farewell to Richard Holt and Colin Ettinger (immediate past president). Allan Gore QC came to the end of his term as president and Richard Langton took up the position, supported by Martin Bare, as vice president. Roger Bolt returned uncontested as APIL's treasurer and he worked once again, throughout the year with APIL's CEO and finance team, monitoring budgets, financial procedures and investment levels. Our thanks to Roger for his on going commitment to this work.

It is always sad to see supporters stand down from their formal duties, but fortunately for us, year on year, there is always 'new blood' willing to come on board. In 2006, ten APIL members put their names forward for the annual EC ballot and David Bott, Victoria Mortimer Harvey and Karl Tonks were duly elected.

APIL's seventeen regional groups and fifteen special interest groups continued to meet regularly across the country and the executive committee met with the co-ordinators and secretaries in July to review activities and discuss new ideas and approaches for future activities. The time given by our volunteers is immense and much needed to maintain a strong network of claimant lawyers.

Enormous energy and time is given by many other practitioners to support our work and this includes past president, David Marshall, who sits on the Law Society Council, representing APIL. In addition, a growing number of our members are now actively involved with APIL's training programme by writing new training courses and travelling round the country to share their knowledge and skills with many other APIL members. In 2006, APIL presented its first web seminar which was written and presented by David Marshall and Mark Harvey.

A heartfelt thank you, to all who play a pro-active and constructive part in APIL's work.

All our work and activity is driven by the APIL staff team, based in Nottingham. Staff



numbers averaged 29 in 2006 and two new posts were introduced to boost activity within the legal and public affairs team. APIL extended its office space from 11 Castle Quay over to No.10 Castle Quay, taking over a further 1,600 square footage to provide additional offices and meeting rooms.

It has been a pleasure working with the APIL staff and my fellow executive committee members. It is with sadness that I too will be saying farewell at the end of my current term, but I know I leave matters in the safe hands of my colleagues and I will continue to support APIL's work, in these extremely challenging times for personal injury practitioners.

Frances Swaine
Secretary

Attendance at EC meetings (maximum 8) January – December 2006

Richard Langton (president) [1] Russell Jones & Walker, Birmingham	6
Martin Bare (vice president) [2] Morrish & Co Solicitors, Leeds	7
Frances Swaine (secretary) [3] Leigh Day & Co, London	5
Roger Bolt (treasurer) [4] Bolt Burdon Kemp, London	8

ADDITIONAL OFFICERS

Allan Gore QC (immediate past president) [5] 12 King's Bench Walk, London	7
David Bott [6] Bott & Co, Wilmslow	4
Stephen Lawson Forshaws, Frodsham	8
Christopher Limb Young Street Chambers, Manchester	6
Muiris Lyons Irwin Mitchell, London	5
Robert Martin [9] Gray Magee, Belfast	2
John McQuater Atherton Godfrey, Doncaster	8
Hilary Meredith Hilary Meredith Solicitors, Wilmslow	5
Victoria Mortimer-Harvey [6] Pattinson & Brewer, London	6
Amanda Stevens Charles Russell, Guildford	7
Neil Sugarman GLP Solicitors, Bury	8
Karl Tonks [6] Fentons Solicitors. Manchester	6
Mark Turnbull Thompsons, Liverpool	7
Fred Tyler Balfour & Manson, Edinburgh	6
Colin Ettinger [7] Irwin Mitchell, London	1
Richard Holt [8] Evans Derry Binnion & Co, Birmingham	2

1. Elected as president at AGM: 6 April 2006
   Post as vice president ended at April 2006 AGM
2. Elected as vice president at April 2006 AGM.
3. Elected as secretary at April 2006 AGM.
4. Re-elected as treasurer at April 2006 AGM.
5. Post as president ended at April 2006 AGM.
6. Elected at April 2006 AGM.
7. Post as immediate past president ended at April 2006 AGM.
8. Did not stand for re-election at April 2006 AGM.
9. Attendance restricted due to ill health.

Activity Report

fighting for the rights of injured people

Press

The majority of APIL's press coverage was generated proactively through press releases and statements in 2006, generated in the legal journals, closely followed by the insurance press.

Developing closer working relationships with APIL members in the regions in order to support press campaigns has proved successful and this work will continue into 2007.

- 17 press releases and 18 statements were issued in 2006 – this is an average of 3 press releases or statements each month. APIL commented on a range of issues in 2006, including:
- Compensation Bill – APIL called repeatedly for the controversial clause 1 to be removed from the Bill, while welcoming proposed regulation of claims management companies
- Streamlining the claims process – APIL repeatedly told the press that removing lawyers from the compensation system was not the answer to reforming the process
- Mesothelioma cases – APIL responded to the judgment in *Barker v Corus* and has continued to voice its views on the on-going moves by the Department for Work and Pensions to speed up the compensation process for mesothelioma sufferers
- Holiday accidents abroad – assistance from APIL members with case studies meant the association was able to issue a story to support its SafetyWatch campaign, warning people about potential dangers when travelling abroad
- Students' workplace safety – another story to support APIL's SafetyWatch campaign. Assistance from members resulted in a story warning students to be aware of safety-shy employers. This story generated coverage amounting to a circulation of one million, in the regional press
- 177 enquiries were received from the press – an average of 15 enquiries every month
- APIL was featured in 14 national newspaper articles in 2006.

Mesothelioma and pleural plaques

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, John Hutton MP, expressed a desire early in the year to improve the compensation system for people suffering from mesothelioma.

APIL was involved in discussions from February onwards and, in conjunction with input from APIL members who specialise in mesothelioma cases, developed a document which was presented to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and which called for a raft of improvements including:

- adoption of Master Whitaker's fast track scheme in the Royal Courts of Justice across a limited number of regional centres
- improvements to the Association of British Insurers' code of practice for tracing employers' liability compulsory insurance
- changes to the role of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme
- amendment of the Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers Compensation) Act 1979
- increased specialisation of claims handlers
- early notification of claim
- development of an 'employers' liability insurance bureau' to act as insurer of last resort where no employers liability insurance can be found
- claimants to have right of action direct against the insurer when a limited company has ceased to exist
- end of the disparity between compensation available for the living and the deceased
- develop a standard letter for mesothelioma claims and encourage best practice for both claimant's lawyers and defendants' insurers.

Activity on these issues will continue into 2007.

In the 11th hour, just before the summer recess, and as a result of campaigning from APIL and other organisations, the Government took the highly unusual step of reversing the House of Lords decision in *Barker v Corus UK PLC* through legislation. The Compensation Bill, which was going through its final parliamentary stages at the time, was used as a vehicle to achieve this.

APIL had several meetings and discussions with officials at the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) about the drafting of the 'mesothelioma: damages' clause, alongside input from other organisations and individuals. The new provisions came into effect immediately and, in another highly unusual move by the Government, were made retrospective.

Following the Court of Appeal decision in *Grieves v FT Everard & Sons* and others which overturned twenty years of settled case law on the treatment of pleural plaque cases, APIL reached agreement with Norwich Union that it would not take the point on limitation issues in outstanding plaques cases pending the appeal of the Court of Appeal decision. The appeal will be heard in 2007.

Working with other organisations

Association of District Judges (ADJ)
APIL had two meetings in 2006 with the ADJ together with the Forum of Insurance Lawyers (FOIL). These meetings are designed to allow

- Local court practices database.
  APIL set up this information source at the request of the ADJ. It contains details of local court guidance on mainly disease related claims conduct which is accessible via the APIL office. Copies of the database have also been sent to the ADJ secretary and to FOIL.

Department for Transport: Athens Convention
APIL took part in the stakeholder committee consultation group on the Athens Convention convened by the DfT. APIL's participation ensured that sea passengers will be properly insured in the event of a terrorist attack on board a ship, in the face of fierce opposition from various insurer and shipping groups.

Department of Health: medical notes
Following concerns expressed by a number of APIL members, APIL joined forces with the Law Society, FOIL and the ABI to submit a joint letter to the Department of Health (DoH) outlining concerns on the way in which an agreed outcome measure, relating to guidance on access to health records, was being used. That letter and subsequent responses relating to the scale of the perceived problem has led to the DoH agreeing to review the outcome measure.

Court of Appeal: Myatt v National Coal Board
APIL obtained permission to become an interested party in this Court of Appeal case on conditional fee agreements (CFAs) and submitted written representations to the Court. Following the difficult decision handed down in this and the associated case of *Garrett v Halton Borough Council*, APIL has been involved in discussions with the Law Society and Civil Justice Council about possible amelioration of the likely effects of these cases. Work will continue in 2007.

Scotland

APIL's additional activities included the following:

APIL Scotland responded to four consultations during the year. Three were initiated by the Sheriff Court Rules Council, and involved examination of the personal injury procedure in the Sheriff Court; alternative dispute resolution; proposals for procedural rules for personal injury actions in the Sheriff Court.

The association responded to a consultation from the Scottish Legal Aid Board (SLAB) in relation to the introduction of a new legal aid helpline. Two meetings were held with SLAB to discuss reforms to the legal aid system, reiterate APIL's argument in relation to the Legal Profession and Legal Aid (Scotland) Bill that only qualified solicitors should conduct personal injury cases and to brief SLAB on the APIL accreditation scheme.

Following publication in 2005 of APIL's petition outlining difficulties with the interpretation of limitation by the Scottish courts, the Scottish Law Commission published a discussion paper Personal Injury Actions: Limitation and Prescribed Claims to which APIL responded. Further public examination of this issue is expected in 2007.

PARLIAMENT

Compensation Bill

The Compensation Bill was introduced into the House of Lords in November 2005. APIL supported the part 2 of the bill which provided for the regulation of claims management companies. APIL opposed the

a new offence of corporate manslaughter if the way in which a company's activities are managed or organised causes a person's death. APIL welcomed the long-overdue legislation in this area but had concerns about the limiting nature of the relevant duty of care, the lack of provision for secondary liability and the omission of statutory director's health and safety duties. The Government did, though, make a major concession when it altered the 'senior managers' test to 'senior management', a change APIL called for in its briefing. Activity included:

- Briefing notes issued to relevant peers and MPs;
- Tabling of amendments;
- Meeting with Edward Davey MP, Shadow Liberal Democrat Secretary of State for Trade and Industry;
- APIL's views mentioned in both Commons and Lords second reading debates;
- APIL contacted by Conservatives and Liberal Democrats regarding tabling amendments in the House of Lords;
- APIL amendment on directors' health and safety duties debated at committee stage in the House of Lords.

Activity in relation to the bill is ongoing.

Draft Coroner Reform Bill

The draft bill was published for pre-legislative scrutiny in June. APIL welcomed it and was broadly supportive of many of its provisions. A consultation response was sent to the DCA in September. There were concerns that the reforms were to be locally funded rather than through the Department for Constitutional Affairs and the duty for coroners to investigate deaths did not include those deaths which occur in mental health institutions. APIL will continue to campaign for coroner reform legislation to be brought forward.

Draft Legal Services Bill

The draft bill was published for pre-legislative scrutiny in May. APIL was concerned about the lack of independence of the proposed Legal Services Board, believed mediation should be included in the definition of legal services and called for the introduction of alternative business structures to be staggered and trialled. A written submission was submitted to the joint committee on the Draft Legal Services Bill in June.

Athens Convention

APIL took part in the stakeholder committee consultation group on the Athens Convention convened by the DfT. APIL's participation ensured that sea passengers will be properly insured in the event of a terrorist attack on board a ship, in the face of fierce opposition from various insurer and shipping groups.

Small claims/Streamlining the claims process

APIL hosted a debate in the House of Commons on 13 December entitled 'A new claims process – putting victims first?' The objectives were to pre-empt the forthcoming Government consultation on the claims process and to disseminate APIL's streamlining document, 'A streamlined claims process for injured people', amongst parliamentarians, press and relevant stakeholder organisations. It was a lively debate with a panel comprising APIL president, Richard Langton, Jonathan Djanogly MP (shadow Solicitor General),

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APIL continued to encourage members to contact their local MPs on any proposed change to the small claims limit. This resulted in many MPs writing to the Government about the issue. Meetings continue to be held with individual MPs to raise awareness of APIL's opposition to any increase to the limit and also to raise awareness of the streamlining document. Other activity included:

- Briefing notes were provided to targeted MPs ahead of an adjournment debate in March on the constitutional affairs committee report into small claims;
- The lobbying campaign by APIL members mentioned by MPs from all parties during the adjournment debate;
- Evidence/petitions from members' clients was collated and sent to the Government in support of APIL's view;
- Written questions tabled by David Jones MP and Madeleine Moon MP, after meetings with APIL, on the streamlining process;
- Written questions on implementing the Law Commission recommendations on damages tabled by David Kidney MP after the debate.

Europe

APIL continues to monitor the Rome II regulation on non-contractual disputes and the proposal for a European small claims procedure. Activity this year included:

- Attending meetings of the DCA European Stakeholder group;
- Meetings with representatives of the Pan European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers and the Law Society;
- Letter sent to Diana Wallis MEP, rapporteur on Rome II, calling for the quantum of damages to be decided in accordance with the victim's country of residence.

Consultation responses

In 2006, APIL responded to over 20 consultations. A major concern was the

developing regulatory role of the Financial Services Authority (FSA). APIL argued robustly that all aspects of insurance activity in relation to the handling of personal injury claims should be regulated under the Compensation Act, rather than by the FSA and this work will continue into 2007. One key area of APIL's consultation responses focused on secondary legislation to the Compensation Act 2006. APIL responses this year included:

- **Home Office/ Criminal Justice System: 'Rebuilding lives: supporting victims of crime'** (Feb 06). Proposals to reform support for victims of crime, including enhanced emotional and practical support, higher awards for the most seriously injured, and a simplified compensation system with standardised awards.

- Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA): **'Part 36 of the CPR: offers to settle and payments into court'** (March 06). Building on the Court of Appeal decision in *Western Power*, the consultation considers proposals to remove the need for certain categories of defendants to make payments into court, and other aspects of written offers from defendants and payments into court.

- Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA): **'Claims management services'** (July 06). A consideration of proposed secondary legislation to implement Part 2 of the Compensation Act, specifically Scope Order under clause 3(2)(e); Regulations under clause 8 and the schedule, and conduct rules.

- Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA): **'Compensation Act 2006: exemptions from the requirement for authorisation'** (September 06). Considers the draft order which provides exemptions for legal practitioners, FSA regulated enterprises, charities and trade unions.

- Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA): **'Compensation Act 2006 – draft code of practice for trade unions'** (October 06). Set out proposed principles to govern the provision of regulated claims management services by trade unions to their members.

- LSC / DCA: **'Legal Aid: a sustainable future'** (July 06). Proposals to implement Lord Carter's proposals, in civil as well as criminal legal aid, through reforms including introducing market models; competitive tendering; fewer, larger contracts with preferred suppliers; incentives for cost and labour efficient service; and standard fee payments to practitioners.

- HM Court Service: **'Pre-action admissions'** (August 06). Sought views on the weight of pre-action admissions, following the case of *Sowerby v Charlton* which found that, in fast track cases, defendants are currently free to withdraw pre action admissions at any time, and without requiring the court's permissions.

- CICA information request (September 06). Sought APIL views on difficulties lawyers face in interacting with the CICA.

- HM Treasury/ FSA: **'Mesothelioma compensation: amending the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS)'** (September 06). Considers proposals to broaden the circumstances in which defendants or defendant insurers can claim a FSCS contribution in mesothelioma cases.

impact on access to justice. These concerns were reiterated in a response to proposals for increases in scale costs far below increases in practitioners' outlays.

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- Letter sent to Diana Wallis MEP, rapporteur on Rome II, calling for the quantum of damages to be decided in accordance with the victim's country of residence.



The APIL conference team: Will Breen, Sharon Smith, Fran Hubbard, Marlene Lord, Kate Waplington and Adam Heyhurst.

Communications

On the web

In 2006, APIL's online database and internal database were merged, so that any changes made to the internal database are now immediately effected on the web site.

- Users can now search for accredited lawyers based on post code rather than town/region, enabling lawyers practising in suburban and rural areas to reach potential clients in town/cities near to them.
- Consumers can also widen their search for lawyers to nearby towns.
- Consumers can also search for all APIL members.
- The specialisms shown on the online search have been made more user friendly for members of the public, e.g. 'occupational health' has been renamed 'accidents/disease at work' and 'international' now appears as 'holiday accidents abroad'.
- The average number of visits per month to www.apil.com rose to just over 18,500, an increase of five per cent on 2005 figures.
- Calls to APIL's public helpline are now answered via an external call centre out of office hours, providing a 24/7 service to members of the public in search of an accredited lawyer.
- apil.com/training provides access to APIL's courses and events online.
- apil.com/members offers news and resources for the membership.
- apil.com has maintained its number one ranking in Google for personal injury related searches.
- APIL has continued to market the apil.com website through Yahoo! Marketing and Google Adwords and currently receives approximately 3,000 referrals a month from paid advertisements.
- E-marketing activity has increased to include banner advertisements on the www.lycos.co.uk search engine for the keywords 'injury' and 'accident'.

The top five areas of the APIL website site in 2006 have been:

- Members' discussion forums
- 'Find a lawyer' search
- Members homepage (including news)
- APIL training area
- Expert search.

Weekly email alert

In 2006, the template for the weekly email was redesigned to match the colour scheme on the apil.com website. Key information is included on the week's events and forthcoming activities, along with hyperlinks to relevant documents. The weekly alert continues to be circulated on Thursday afternoons, ready for members to read at their desks on Friday morning.

Security

The off-site anti-virus and anti-spam filter has been very effective. This has run alongside the Symantec anti-virus software to ensure a virus free year. A full backup and disaster recovery system is in place.

Intranet

The outdated Microsoft Access database has been replaced by a more efficient intranet system which allows users to complete many tasks in a fraction of the time. As well as allowing users to modify client records and manage courses, the intranet fully automates many of APIL's internal work processes.

Members' forums

- The discussion forums remain the most popular sections of the APIL website and are a vital source of information for the Association and provide a useful touchstone for assessing members' views.
- The APIL website discussion forum was split during the year so that general 'chat' threads were separated from the more serious legal exchange discussions. This has proved popular with regular users who have begun to change the way the forum is used: lively non-legal discussions are now very popular and provide a light-hearted source of relaxation for those who log on.
- Postings on the legal exchange forum have ranged from tracing suitable experts to informed procedural discussions and case-solving brainstorming sessions.

Information exchange

The information exchange service continues to assist members with their cases by providing information on expert services, tracing cases, sharing information on cases being pursued by other members, monitoring product recalls, issuing briefing notes on aspects of legal practice as and when necessary.

Expert database

- This fully searchable online database is accessible via the members section of the APIL website at www.apil.com/members.
- Experts who register with the APIL expert database pay a registration fee of £45 plus VAT – the fee has remained unchanged this year.
- In return for the registration fee experts' records go into APIL's online database and experts are entitled to use the 'APIL Expert' logo on their notepaper. Hyperlinks to the experts' CVs and websites where appropriate appear in the individual records.
- 1,106 experts have so far opted to pay to be on the expert database, with new and existing experts continuing to join every day.
- Average of 4,000 expert details viewed online by APIL members each month.

Agenda

APIL's monthly Agenda is designed to update the membership on the association's campaigns and policy issues. Activity within the media, and any developments or work carried out with the Government is also outlined each month to ensure members are kept fully informed of APIL's campaigning activity. Issues which have been particularly prominent in 2006 include the Government's proposed consultation paper on streamlining the compensation system, and the Compensation Act and regulation of claims management companies. There have also been regular updates on consultation responses, Government Bills and parliamentary activity, and press coverage generated by APIL on a wide range of issues from hard hitting legal interviews to consumer stories in regional newspapers.

Other issues covered over the past year include:

- Criminal injuries compensation
- NHS Redress Bill
- Industrial disease claims
- Small claims
- Case updates.

PI Focus

This bi-monthly publication is sent to all members and selected non-member subscribers and opinion-formers. It continues to provide its readership with up to date, practical information designed to help members run their personal injury practices and case loads. Articles are mostly written by those who practise personal injury law, but each issue carries at least one article produced by a non-lawyer who has an interest in the area.

- Six regular issues and one themed issue in 2006.
- Themed issue, "the business of personal injury", published October 2006.
- Available online on the APIL website and circulated in printed format to all current APIL members and additional subscribers.
- Following the success of the full colour themed issue, a decision was taken this year to print in full colour for all future issues of PI Focus.

Books and other publications

APIL Guides

Jordan Publishing has produced eight publications since it began its successful partnership with APIL several years ago. The full list of APIL guides produced by Jordans is:

- Conditional Fee Agreements by Mark Harvey;
- Motor Insurers Bureau Claims, by Andrew Ritchie and Tara Vindis (two editions);
- Fatal Accident Claims by Gordon Exall;
- Damages by Simon Allen, Ivan Bowley and Hugh Davies;
- Occupational Illness Claims by Christopher Goddard;
- Personal Injury Claims Procedure by John McQuater and
- Model Letters for Personal Injury Lawyers also by John McQuater.

Work continued this year on second editions of the guides to CFAs, Damages and Model Letters, and on three proposed new titles. As always, these books are designed to be practical, no-nonsense publications aimed at the busy practitioner, at an affordable price.

Journal of Personal Injury Law (JPIL)

APIL's quarterly journal, published by Sweet & Maxwell continues to go from strength to strength. There have been several changes to the editorial board this year. The board said goodbye to Stephen King from Mills and Reeve and Leslie Keegan from 7 Bedford Row chambers. APIL is delighted that Mark Harvey of Hugh James Solicitors and Allan Gore QC, 12 Kings Bench Walk and immediate APIL past president, have both been appointed to the board.

JPIL displays a healthy mix of interests and a good array of articles and continues to attract contributions from the very best PI practitioners and academics in the personal injury world. In 2006 these have included Allan Gore QC, David Marshall, Paul Balen, Martyn Day, Patrick Allen, Robert Glancy QC, Warren Collins and Professor Richard Lewis.

Rehabilitation directory

Following the successful reception given to APIL's first rehabilitation services directory in 2005, work began on a second edition of the directory in 2006. Publication is scheduled for early 2007.

Networking

Regional and special interest groups

APIL's regional and special interest group network provides a vital means of communicating with the membership: 37 regional group meetings and 19 SIG meetings were held during 2006. Thank you to all the coordinators, secretaries and EC members who have organised, supported and attended group meetings.

Regional forums

APIL continued its regional forum programme, holding forums in Newcastle, Norwich, Oxford and Exeter during 2006. The procedure, damages, costs and funding, international, occupational health, transport and clinical negligence groups were asked to take part in these forums.

New barristers group

A new barristers' group was established in June. James Bell of 1 Temple Gardens and Mark Whalan of 9 Gough Square were appointed as co-ordinator and secretary of the group. The inaugural meeting was held on 3 October - John Melville Williams QC, Allan Gore QC & Patrick Allen were the speakers. The purpose of the group is to give barrister members a platform to share their problems, experiences and listen to relevant speakers.

Charity golf day

Seventy-seven players took part in this year's charity golf day which was held at the Celtic Manor Resort. Experts, advertisers and members enjoyed 18 holes on the Wentwood Hills course, which is to be the venue for the 2010 Ryder Cup.

Business support forum

APIL expanded its business support forum, which is geared mainly towards providing support for the smaller practices, during 2006. Areas of support include:

- Best practice advice and information
- Business support networking
- APIL products
- Education and training.

Shoosmiths Solicitors offered further assistance to the forum by offering the services of its dedicated learning and development team which has developed a rolling 12 month calendar of in-house programs, a multimedia library of learning materials and a flexible approach to learning.

A business conference, supported by an IT fair, was held at the Celtic Manor, South Wales, in June. For the first time, the whole conference was videoed and DVDs were available for those who could not attend. Topics covered included acting for clients with BTE, funding, branding and niche marketing.

Training and conferences

APIL continued to offer a wide variety of training courses and conferences throughout 2006. In addition to its core APIL certificate modules, APIL provided update training in many areas and more advanced events for its more experienced members.

Training

Public schedule

- 39 different topics have been covered in 2006.
- A total of 109 events nationwide.
- Five contract training events for the Accident Line scheme.

In-house training and joint training with local law societies

- 40 courses in-house in 2006.
- A further 34 courses jointly with local law societies.
- Working closely with Liverpool and Blackpool Law Societies, the APIL certificate in personal injury law is running well in both regions.

Other jurisdictions

- A number of training events were run in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- A PI update conference ran jointly with The Law Society of Scotland in Glasgow.

Web seminar

APIL ran two web seminars in 2006 with a very good response. More of these are planned for 2007.

APIL certificate in personal injury law

Twelve practitioners have now completed the APIL certificate in personal injury law with 71 registered in total.

Conferences

Residential annual conference and AGM

APIL held its annual conference at the Birmingham Hilton Metropole in April. The conference was extremely well received by all 400 delegates, exhibitors, sponsors and speakers.

Residential clinical negligence conference

Roger Wicks and Christopher Limb worked with the APIL staff to develop another very successful residential clinical negligence conference program which was held at Tortworth Court Four Pillars Hotel in South Gloucestershire.

Members listened to eminent experts and leading practitioners discussing key areas of neurology and neurosurgery. The conference was fully subscribed in terms of delegates, exhibitors and sponsors.

Other major events

In addition to the third business conference in June, APIL ran a number of other specialist conferences throughout 2006 including advanced asbestos litigation, brain injury, deafness and dermatitis and an occupational disease update.

Accreditation

Individual membership

The numbers of practitioners who have joined the accredited levels are as follows:

Litigators	553
Senior litigators	659
Fellows	156
Senior fellows	8
Total	**1376**

This is a 79 per cent increase on the 2005 figure of 769.

In-house accreditation

APIL now has 28 firms who have gained in-house accreditation of their courses, an increase of 86 per cent on last year's figure. This enables accredited APIL members to accrue APIL CPD hours by attending any courses delivered at their firm.

External accreditation

APIL has granted annual accreditation status to 13 external providers. Central Law Training offers the most APIL accredited courses. AvMA, BPP and Jordans have all had several courses accredited.

The use of the "APIL Training accredited" logo, for externally accredited providers, was withdrawn in October to avoid confusion. Externally accredited providers may now indicate their APIL accreditation with the words 'accredited by APIL Training' once on each item of course documentation.

Corporate accredited membership

This has increased by 82 per cent on last year's figures. There are 202 firms which have been accepted for membership this year. Renewal procedures have also been put in place for corporate membership, in-house accreditation, and for other providers.

Monitoring

During 2006, APIL set up rigorous monitoring procedures in all areas:

Individual membership

The Senior Fellows Assessment Panel made spot-checks on a number of fellowship applications during their 2006 meetings. In addition, one senior fellow came into the APIL office to randomly select a number of approved applications for verification, and to assess a number of new applications.

Training logs

In August, it was twelve months since the increased 16 hours CPD training requirement was introduced and since then 50 per cent of all training logs have been monitored. A full system is now in place to:

- remind members that they are soon to complete 12 months of their accredited membership;
- call for training logs when due;
- remind those whose training logs are overdue;
- assess the training logs;
- report back to members if sufficient hours have not been accrued.

In addition, monitoring of internal systems is also in place to ensure that applications are being assessed in a correct and standardised manner. All applications are assessed according to marking criteria and comments made by the assessor in relation to each answer.

Corporate membership

APIL corporate monitoring is carried out remotely and on-site.

- Remote

  APIL checks the validity of all answers on all applications, through telephone calls and by checking membership of other organisations.

- On-site

  Monitoring of a number of corporate accredited firms is carried out by two independent assessors. Monitoring within firms ensures compliance with APIL's corporate accreditation criteria and standards.

During the visits, files are reviewed and discussions held with staff representatives at all levels within the firm, in particular in relation to supervision and training and development issues. Discussions on findings are held at the end of the day and a report is then submitted to the firm, along with any recommendations. All reports are reviewed by the training and accreditation committee and ultimately submitted to the Academic Quality Council.

APIL training

Evaluation

All feedback forms continue to be scrupulously analysed and any problems are addressed immediately. The analysis is reviewed quarterly by the training committee and submitted annually to the Academic Quality Council for final approval and comment. The AQC commended the quality and standards of APIL Training and remarked upon the overall excellence of the feedback.

External providers

Independent monitoring of other providers' courses was undertaken by members of the AQC and APIL's senior fellows.

In-house

In-house accredited firms are asked to submit details quarterly of all personal injury training that is carried out and records checked against individual training logs. Course materials are requested on an ad hoc basis to ensure that APIL's high quality standards are adhered to.

Standards

The Academic Quality Council stated that clearly an enormous amount of work and effort had been put into ensuring that a comprehensive and rigorous monitoring system is in place. It once again commended the quality of APIL's work in this area.

public information campaign

In addition to the development work on the consumer web site, work was completed in a number of key areas:

Scotland and Northern Ireland

The public information campaign leaflet was amended for use in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Members, Citizens Advice Bureaux, libraries and legal advice centres were circulated with supplies of the leaflet, a poster and dispenser for display in their offices.

Individual and corporate application forms for Scotland and Northern Ireland were reviewed and amended as necessary to ensure that they were applicable to all members in these jurisdictions.

The Scottish campaign was launched at a formal reception at the Law Society in February, which was attended by representatives from the Law Society, the Scottish Legal Aid Board and the press.

Barristers' scheme

The corporate membership scheme was reviewed in conjunction with a number of APIL's barrister members to ensure it's relevant to chambers, rather than law firms.

CABx

Members of APIL were invited to give talks on accreditation to their local citizens advice bureaux. The operation was coordinated centrally with a view to targeting all local CABx in the regions.

Advertising

A further series of adverts was placed in regional newspapers, the Daily Mirror and the Sun in Scotland reaching a circulation of 3,222,020 consumers.

Code of conduct

Complaints received at the APIL office relating to potential breaches of the Code of Conduct are referred to APIL's secretary. This year four sets of complaints were dealt with.

membership **statistics**

Membership totals

By the end of 2006, APIL had over 5,000 members. The membership, broken down by category, is as follows:

Practitioners	4663
Paralegals	177
Honorary	9
Non-practising	14
Students	71
Academics	19
Overseas	79
Total	**5032***

*The total number of members will vary from the number of paid up members in the financial report. Some members may have been archived; others may have moved firm and their new details were awaited at the year end.



Allan Gore QC (far left) with new honorary life members (L-R) Rodger Pannone, Colin Ettinger and David Marshall.



The 2006 AGM and conference exhibition.

06

financial**report**

financialreport

In financial terms, APIL continues to go from strength to strength. Once again, in the financial year 2006, APIL has increased its total income stream by a little over 7.5 per cent. As a consequence, annual turnover has now risen to £2.24 million.

The successes this year include an increase in training events fees of some £63,000 on the previous year, raising the income generated by this activity now to £851,000. There is also a modest increase on membership related fees due mainly to the success of the corporate accreditation scheme: increasing this income stream to £951,000, and a substantial increase, almost £85,000, on the income generated by the annual conference, business conference, clinical negligence conference and charity golf day. This is due to the increased number of attending members, exhibitors and sponsors.

Overall, the total surplus recorded for this financial year on all trading activities was £30,206, which includes some £51,900 of bank interest on investments. This is the fourth year in succession that APIL has seen the return on its investments grow year on year, which demonstrates quite clearly that APIL continues to make the best possible use of its cash holdings, with an actual increase over the previous financial year of some 22.8 per cent.

The budget set for the financial year sought a modest surplus and although on the surface it would appear that we have not quite reached that target, it should be borne in mind that a further £77,970 of expenditure was committed towards the end of the financial year by the executive committee, to fund an additional advertising initiative as part of APIL's public information campaign. Such a spend obviously affected the final bottom line position. However, it would not have been possible to contemplate such an outlay without accurate and timely management account information, and an all round continued improvement by the various staff teams in maximising income streams and controlling expenditure levels across the board, both areas showing improvements against their budgetary targets.

There has been no spending activity from within APIL's reserves during this financial year. The reserves therefore remain in a healthy position in line with existing reserves policy and are currently sufficient to meet known current and any future identified commitments.

APIL made two charitable donations during the financial year, namely, £1,000 to Headway raised during the charity golf day and a further £2,000 to the Centre for Corporate Accountability from general funds.

APIL's auditors have reported directly to me that the finances of APIL continue to be sound and healthy and that the financial management control procedures currently in place are robust and effective.

The entire APIL staff has worked tirelessly, effectively and efficiently in order to meet and indeed better the budget targets set. In addition, I am grateful to the finance team for the way they have supported the business operations of APIL so effectively throughout the year.

I conclude by thanking the entire staff team for their support and hard work in continuing to make APIL a strong and sound financially viable organisation.

Roger Bolt
Treasurer.

association of personal injury lawyers
a company limited by guarantee

Report of the executive committee
Year ended 31 December 2006

The executive committee presents its report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2006.

Activity
The principal activity of the company is to promote, encourage and develop expertise in the practice of personal injury law by education and the exchange of information and knowledge.

Review of developments and future prospects
As projected in 2005 all of our major income streams have improved in 2006. We are delighted with the increase in corporate accreditations (up by some 82 per cent on the previous year) and this has helped balance out a slight drop in membership fees. We are also extremely pleased that our major events (AGM, business conference, clinical negligence conference) are continuing to attract greater numbers of delegates and also more and more sponsors and exhibitors. We fully expect this trend to continue in the future.

In 2005 we allocated a considerable sum of money from our reserves to fund APIL's public information campaign, this continued in 2006, with the remainder of allocated funds being spent and a further sum given over to the campaign from income generated during the year. We continue to maintain a strong position in respect of our reserves. We have no reason to believe that this position will change in 2007.

Results
Details of the results for the year are set out in the income and expenditure account on page 26.

Charitable gifts
£3000 was donated in the year (2005:- £1500), £1000 to Headway and £2000 to the Centre for Corporate Accountability.

Provision of information to auditors
So far as each member of the executive committee is aware at the time the report is approved:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware, and
- the executive committee has taken all steps that it ought to have taken to make itself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Statement of Responsibilities
The executive committee is responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the executive committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the executive committee has elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the executive committee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The executive committee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The executive committee is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements and other information included in annual reports may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Report of the executive committee
Year ended 31 December 2006

Executive committee

C Ettinger (6 April 2006)
A Gore◆
C Limb
R Bolt*
J McQuarter
N Sugarman
M Bare*
R Holt (6 April 2006)
R Langton*
K Tonks
S Lawson
M Lyons
R Martin
H Meredith
A Stevens
F Swaine*
M Turnbull
F Tyler
D Bott
V Mortimer-Harvey

*are also directors of the company
◆resigned at AGM 6 April 2006

Auditors

PKF (UK) LLP are eligible for re-appointment as auditor to the company and a resolution proposing their re-appointment will be proposed at the AGM.

Approved by the executive committee and signed on their behalf

F SWAINE
Secretary and Director
13 March 2007



A few past presidents (L-R) Ian Walker with Colin Ettinger, David Marshall and Alan Gore QC, at the 2006 AGM.

Independent auditors' report to the members of Association of Personal Injury Lawyers A company limited by guarantee Year ended 31 December 2006

We have audited the financial statements of Association of Personal Injury Lawyers for the year ended 31 December 2006 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the executive committee and auditors

The executive committee's responsibilities for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards ('United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice') are set out in the statement of responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and transactions with the company is not disclosed.

We read the report of the executive committee and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

We report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the executive committee's report is consistent with the financial statements.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the executive committee in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2006 and of its surplus for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and
- the information given in the executive committee's report is consistent with the financial statements.

PKF

PKF (UK) LLP
Registered Auditors
Nottingham, UK
14 March 2007

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
A company limited by guarantee
Income and expenditure account
Year ended 31 December 2006

	Note	2006 £	2005 £
INCOME			
Subscriptions	2	**912,215**	907,975
Other income		**1,334,291**	1,177,692
		2,246,506	2,085,667
EXPENDITURE			
Administration expenses		**(2,190,230)**	(1,993,367)
Exceptional item - Public Information Campaign		**(77,970)**	(167,301)
(DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		**(21,694)**	(75,001)
Interest receivable	4	**51,900**	42,246
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE BEFORE TAX	5	**30,206**	(32,755)
Taxation	6	**(12,143)**	5,650
Surplus/(Deficit) after tax		**18,063**	(27,105)
Balance brought forward		**365,574**	392,679
Balance carried forward		**383,637**	365,574

All activities derive from continuing operations.

There are no recognised gains or losses for the current financial year or previous period other than as stated in the income and expenditure account.

1. Balance sheet
31 December 2006

	Note	2006 £	2005 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	7	**19,992**	36,899
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	8	**26,707**	36,083
Prepayments and accrued income		**42,236**	32,038
Cash at bank and in hand		**741,443**	728,681
		810,386	796,802
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	9	**(446,741)**	(467,382)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**363,645**	329,420
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**383,637**	366,319
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES	10	**—**	(745)
		383,637	365,574
RESERVES			
Income and expenditure account		**383,637**	365,574

These financial statements were approved by the officers on 13 March 2007.
Signed on behalf of the executive committee

R BOLT
Treasurer and Director

Notes to the accounts
Year ended 31 December 2006

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The particular accounting policies adopted are described below. The financial statements depart from the Companies Act 1985 in that the profit and loss account has been replaced by an income and expenditure account. The executive committee considers that this policy is more appropriate given the nature of the company's activities.

Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Subscriptions income

Subscriptions to the association cover a period of twelve months to 31 March each year. Subscriptions received during the year have been credited to the income and expenditure account, subject to the deferral of three months of each subscription, representing that portion attributable from 1 January 2007 to 31 March 2007.

Investment income

Investment income is credited to the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets is calculated to write off their cost over the period of their estimated useful economic lives at the following rate:
Computer equipment and fixtures and fittings 20 per cent per annum on cost

Pension scheme

The company contributes to the personal pension schemes of certain employees. Costs are charged to the profit and loss account as they are incurred.

Leases

Operating lease rentals are charged against income in equal amounts over the lease term.

Deferred tax

Deferred taxation has been recognised as a liability as transactions have occurred at the balance sheet date that give rise to an obligation to pay more taxation in the future. The deferred tax liabilities have not been discounted.

2. SUBSCRIPTIONS

	2006 No.	2005 No.	2006 £	2005 £
Practitioner members	**4,723**	4,738	**849,624**	867,361
Student members	**75**	119	**3,050**	4,785
Paralegal members	**192**	156	**18,240**	14,820
Academic members	**18**	16	**1,350**	1,200
Overseas members	**82**	74	**6,905**	6,290
	5,090	5,103	**879,169**	894,456
Add: Deferred income brought forward			**226,289**	232,883
Less: Deferred income carried forward (see note 1)			**(224,643)**	(226,289)
			880,815	901,050
Corporate accreditation income			**33,613**	**27,450**
Add: Deferred income brought forward			20,525	—
Less: Deferred income carried forward			**(22,738)**	(20,525)
			31,400	**6,925**
Total			912,215	907,975

3. COMMITTEE AND EMPLOYEES

	2006	2005
	£	£
Membership of the executive committee is voluntary. No remuneration for executive committee duties has been paid in the year.		
Employee costs during the year		
Wages and salaries	**635,055**	600,731
Social security costs	**63,584**	60,416
Pension costs	**27,272**	20,174
	725,911	681,320
Average number of persons employed	No.	No.
Administration	**28**	28

4. INTEREST RECEIVABLE

	2006	2005
	£	£
Bank deposit interest	**51,900**	42,246

5. SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE BEFORE TAX

	2006	2005
	£	£
The result for the year is after charging:		
Depreciation	**24,000**	31,500
Auditors' remuneration	**3,750**	3,750
Rentals under operating leases – land and buildings	**53,593**	37,500
– other	**3,812**	3,244
Loss on disposal of fixed asset	**225**	2,636

6. TAXATION ON RESULTS FOR YEAR

	2006	2005
	£	£
United Kingdom corporation tax charge at an effective rate of 19% (2004: 19%) based on taxable surplus/(deficit) for the year	**12,967**	(1,603)
Under/(over) provision in respect of previous year	**(79)**	(9)
	12,888	(1,612)
Deferred taxation (see note 10)	**(745)**	(4,038)
	12,143	(5,650)

FACTORS AFFECTING TAX CHARGE FOR PERIOD	2006	2005
	£	£
surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure before tax	**30,206**	(32,755)
Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by the effective rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19% (2003: 19%)	**5,739**	(6,223)
Effects of:		
– Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	**6,152**	475
– Depreciation in excess of capital allowances	**1,076**	4,145
– Adjustments to tax charge in respect of previous periods	**(79)**	(9)
Current tax charge for the period	**12,888**	(1,612)

7. FIXED ASSETS

	Computer Equipment, Fixtures & Fittings	Total
Cost	£	£
At 1 January 2005	182,804	182,804
Additions during the year	7,318	7,318
Disposals	(9,928)	(9,928)
At 31 December 2006	180,194	180,194
Accumulated depreciation		
At 1 January 2005	145,905	145,905
Charge for the year	24,000	24,000
On disposals	(9,703)	(9,703)
At 31 December 2005	160,202	160,202
Net book amount		
At 31 December 2005	19,992	19,992
At 31 December 2004	36,899	36,899

8. DEBTORS

	2006	2005
Due within year	£	£
Trade debtors	12,692	14,089
Other debtors	14,015	21,994
	26,707	36,083

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2006	2005
	£	£
Trade creditors	63,459	71,622
Corporation tax	12,967	—
Deferred income – subscriptions	224,643	226,289
Deferred income – accreditation	22,738	20,525
Deferred income – courses	43,104	57,329
Deferred income – other	58,208	53,122
Accruals	21,622	38,495
	446,741	467,382

10. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

The amounts of deferred taxation provided in the accounts are:

	2006	2005
	£	£
Accelerated capital allowances	—	745

11. OTHER COMMITMENTS

At 31 December 2006, the company had annual commitments under operating leases as follows:

	Other 2005	Land and buildings 2005	Other 2004	Land and buildings 2004
	£	£	£	£
Leases which expire:				
Between 1 and 5 years	3,812	53,593	3,244	48,000

12. SHARE CAPITAL

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have share capital.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The additional information below has been prepared from the accounting records of the company. While it does not form part of the statutory financial statements, it should be read in conjunction with them and the auditors' report thereon.

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

		2006		2005
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Membership (including other related income)		**950,923**		934,287
Conference, SIGS and Regional Meetings		**350,707**		253,130
Training Events		**851,065**		788,587
Legal Services		**93,811**		109,663
		2,246,506		2,085,667
DIRECT EXPENDITURE				
Membership (including other related expenditure)	**36,591**		52,808	
Conference, SIGS and Regional Meetings	**244,474**		199,795	
Training Events	**632,019**		558,230	
Legal Services	**35,275**		49,666	
Press and Parliamentary	**44,794**		53,997	
		(993,153)		(914,496)
SALARIES AND OVERHEAD EXPENDITURE				
Staff Costs (including training and recruitment)	**757,405**		712,689	
Property Costs	**145,720**		75,714	
APIL Stationery, Postage and Other costs	**219,395**		193,161	
Staff Travel	**10,529**		14,995	
Executive Committee	**40,028**		50,812	
Depreciation	**24,000**		31,500	
		(1,197,077)		(1,078,871)
Exceptional item - Public Information Campaign		(77,970)		(167,301)
OPERATING (DEFICIT)		(21,694)		(75,001)
Interest Receivable		**51,900**		42,246
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		30,206		(32,755)

Chief executive's report



For me, 2006 began and ended with the words 'streamlining' on my lips. The APIL officers and I devoted much time to attending consultation events hosted by the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) which was working to respond to the Better Regulation Task Force (BRTF) report, Better routes to redress. Our support for the consultation process culminated in APIL producing its own position paper, A streamlined claims process for injured people, designed to confirm our position to you and to assist with promoting our key messages to MPs, consumer groups and other interested groups.

We were pleased to be given the opportunity by government to enter into greater dialogue to consider a more streamlined process, but throughout the months we stressed that recognising the needs of the individual injured person was paramount. Our opposition to any increases in the small claims limit remains steadfast and we will fight again in 2007 to increase the levels of damages which have not kept pace with inflation.

During our time involved with the DCA process we maintained a useful dialogue with individual representatives from the insurance industry. This dialogue has brought about the development of an industry practice working group designed to tackle day to day issues surrounding the handling of claims. We plan to continue with this group in 2007, with the aim of developing and encouraging best practice between insurers and claimant lawyers to improve the process for injured clients.
Running alongside our dialogue and work with the DCA, APIL was heartened by an approach from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to improve the compensation system for people suffering from mesothelioma. The raft of improvements we presented is listed within this report and work in this area will continue in 2007. My thanks go to APIL members who have supported us on these important developments.

The 'voice of APIL' and its ever-growing campaign and lobbying activities rely on your support each year. Over 5,000 practitioners, students and academics have once again subscribed to the objectives of the association and supported APIL's various activities including the highly successful education and training programmes. I have seen an increase in members' active involvement in, and support for, our work. Solicitors and barristers can provide APIL with much needed direct evidence and contact with clients, which is so vital in order to add depth, substance and the consumer's voice to our campaigns.

Alongside our important campaign work, I am pleased to report that firms, chambers and individual members continue to support APIL's accreditation scheme. There has been a marked increase in the number of members who have gained individual accredited status this year, and many firms have applied for corporate status. APIL's supporting public information campaign, which includes a consumer website, has attracted growing interest and approaches from the public. Further branding and promotional work is planned for 2007.
Thank you to all APIL members who have worked with APIL during 2006. Your active support, comment and ideas are so important to us. In 2007 I shall remain committed to strengthening our day to day connection with you, to ensure that APIL's services and activities embrace our objectives, remain relevant to you, and wherever possible, support you and your firms and chambers in the future.

APIL is devoted to keeping the rights of the injured person centre stage, defending claimants against any attacks, and fighting for their right to access to justice and independent legal representation. It remains a great pleasure and honour to continue to work with you to fight for the rights of injured people.

Denise Kitchener
Chief executive

past presidents and officers

Past Presidents

John Melville Williams QC	1990-1994
Michael Napier	1994-1996
Caroline Harmer	1996-1998
Ian Walker	1998-2000
Frances McCarthy	2000-2002
Patrick Allen	2002-2003
David Marshall	2003-2004
Colin Ettinger	2004-2005
Allan Gore QC	2005-2006

Past vice presidents

Simon Walton	1990-1992
Michael Napier	1992-1994
Caroline Harmer	1994-1996
Ian Walker	1996-1998
Frances McCarthy	1998-2000
David Marshall	2002-2003
Colin Ettinger	2003-2004
Allan Gore QC	2004-2005
Richard Langton	2005-2006

Past secretaries

Michael Napier	1990-1992
Roger Goodier	1992-1997
John Pickering	1997-1998
Paul Balen	1998-2000
Mark Harvey	2000-2005

Past treasurers

Gillian Solly	1990-1994
Frances McCarthy	1994-1998
David Marshall	1998-2002
Allan Gore QC	2002-2004

Past executive committee members

Patrick Allen	1992-2000
Paul Balen	1996-2000
Colm Barry	2003-2005
David Body	1990-1991
Roger Bolt	1997-2004
David Burnside	1990-1996
Christopher Carling	1990-1995
Andrew Dismore	1994-2000
Paul Donnelly	1999-2002
Colin Ettinger	1998-2003
Gordon Exall	2000-2003
Allan Gore QC	1995-2002
Frank Hanna	1990-1999
Caroline Harmer	1990-1994
Mark Harvey	1999-2000
Richard Holt	2003-2006
Campbell Kennedy	1990-1992
Richard Langton	2000-2005
Sarah Leigh	1992-1997
Russell Levy	1996-1999
David Marshall	1996-1998
Frances McCarthy	1990-2002
Peter McDonnell	1999-2003
Neil McKinley	1998-2001
John Pickering	1990-1997
Andrew Ritchie	1996-1999
David Short	1999-2002
Arnold Simanowitz	1990-1997
Nigel Tomkins	1996-1999
Ian Walker	1994-1996
Laura Walker	1996-1999
Jane Williams	2002-2005



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